

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

13 July 1950

Korea

SPEECH

OF

HON. WALTER H. JUDD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 1950

Mr. JUDD. Mr. Speaker, I regret that my good friend and colleague the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FULTON) has seen fit to make the comments he made on what happened in an executive session of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. I have always been proud of the fact that regardless of the leaks that frequently emerged from committees of the other body, our committee in the past has always kept in strictest confidence secret information that has been given us, even though frequently I believed and said it was completely wrong to keep much of it from the press and the public.

ARMS AID TO EUROPE AND UNITED STATES KOREAN INTELLIGENCE

Mr. FULTON. Mr. Speaker, we people in the country are worried in these times to find that the House has not yet acted on S. 3809, the mutual defense assistance program. The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House on Tuesday of this week unanimously reported this bill and the Rules Committee should have immediately met on Tuesday, July 11, and reported a rule so that the legislation could have been reported to the House and argued either yesterday or today. Instead of that the Rules Committee is not in session and will not meet in session until Monday of next week, putting off consideration of this vital bill for arms aid for Europe and other countries until next week, a delay of a whole week. This is not the time for business as usual. Our national defense and safety require we act promptly.

The responsibility for this situation should be stated to the country and the country should know who is responsible for the House having today to act on a bill involving the height of buildings in the Georgetown section of the District of Columbia, and a bill on a stadium seating capacity for a high school here in the District instead of providing the vitally important matter of arms aid for our allies.

May I close by saying that I am one of those who listened to Admiral Hillenkoetter on Friday, June 23, before the Saturday—our time—or Sunday, June 25, Korean time, on which the North Korean invasion took place. The Foreign Affairs Committee met specially to hear Admiral Hillenkoetter as the head of the Central Intelligence Agency Friday morning and to hear General LeMay on his specific strategic bombing field Friday afternoon. These officials were specially called before the committee to be questioned on factors affecting our national security.

Because of the fact it was an executive session I cannot give Admiral Hillenkoetter's statement, but I will say that we felt specifically reassured as to Korea. As a member of the committee, I made a particular point of Korea, and asked as my first question specifically for an outline of the present Korea situation. At no time during the session were there mentioned the reports stated to have been given, possibly pointing to immediate North Korean aggressive action, of which I have heard later, a legislative committee of the other body was advised, had been submitted through regular channels. When I inquired about intelligence, as to whether it was current in time, whether our sources were broad in extent and whether our personnel dependable, I felt assured specifically on Korea that that was the case. In all justice to Admiral Hillenkoetter, I must say that my general impression was that he was not too satisfied with certain conditions under which he was required to work under the present set-up. Defects which I specifically felt existed in our present intelligence set-up were lack of unified authority, inability under present law of the CIA to make judgments of value of the material obtained,

and certain disagreements and differences of opinion among those groups working on intelligence.

I think Admiral Hillenkoetter should be given the opportunity to explain publicly to the Congress and to the American people why so little was known or communicated to the Foreign Affairs Committee within approximately 30 hours of the North Korean invasion.

RES/EC-82

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